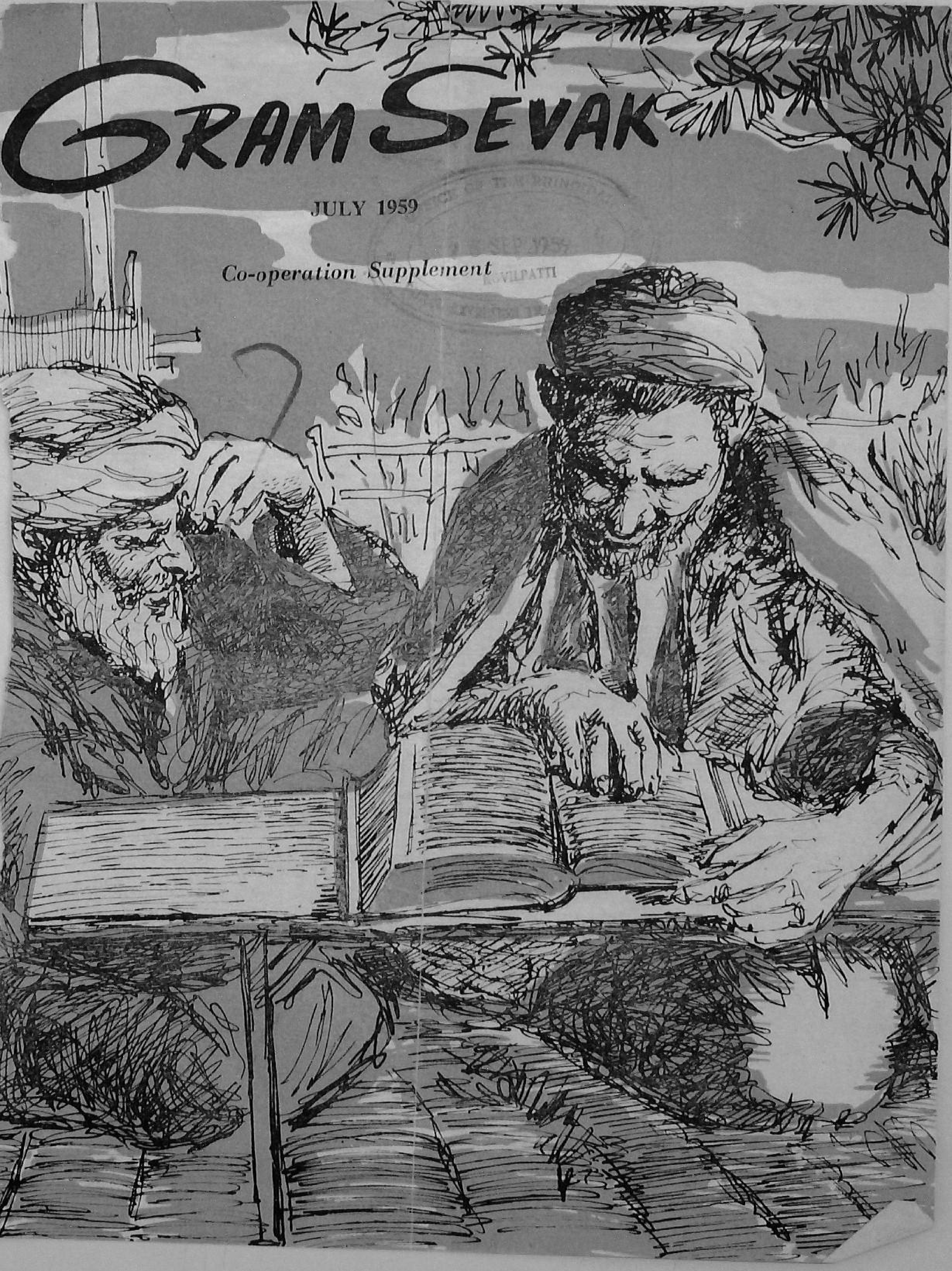
# GRAM SEVAK

JULY 1959

*Co-operation Supplement*

KOVILPATTI



# THE OLD AND THE NEW

This picture shows the old and the new, the traditional and the modern, the cow dung cake and the cow dung gas plant. It is true that we are wasting the precious manure as fuel by making cow dung cakes. We can keep the precious manure, as well as get fuel by the use of a simple gas plant. This plant will cost between Rs. 100 and Rs. 200, according to the size. Every Training Centre in a block will have five such gas plants installed for demonstration purposes. (For details see page 7).

# GRAM SEVAK

Asadha-Sravana 1881

Vol. 5 JULY 1959 No. 12


## CONTENTS


What is a Service Co-operative ? 1

Why are we afraid of Co-operatives ?—*—Ratnakar Rao* .. 3

Health Co-operatives of Orissa-*Surendra Prasad Sinha* .. 4

A Pilot Project in Canning—*Dr. Ram Das* .. 6

I work in Villages—*Ajit Gupta* 8

Bat-Chit .. 10

Progress of Co-operation in the States .. 12

B. D. O. the Snowman—*D. K.-Negi* .. 15

What's in a Name ?—*S. N. Bhattacharyya* .. 16

How Science helps the Farmer 17

The story of a Gram Sevak 18

The Lone Fighter .. 19

Careers for Young Women 20

The Multi-purpose Potato—*C. V.-Mallappa* .. 21

Programme Pattern .. 22

Report from villages .. 23



*Editor* : D. RAGHAVAN

*Asstt Editor* : M. K. RAO

*Cover Design* : ROMESH CHANDRA

BUSINESS NOTICE

Single Copy : 15 nP.

Annual : Rs. 1.25

All enquiries regarding agency and rates of subscription and advertisements may be addressed to the Publications Division, Old Secretariat, Delhi-8. Editorial correspondence may be addressed to the Editor, *Gram Sevak*, Ministry of Community Development, Krishi Bhawan, New Delhi.


# WHAT IS A SERVICE COOPERATIVE?

A SERVICE COOPERATIVE means a village cooperative whose primary functions are the provision of short and medium credit to farmers, supply of agricultural and other production requirements and assistance in marketing of agricultural produce. In addition it is expected to formulate and implement the plan of agricultural production for the village and undertake such educative, advisory and welfare work as may be feasible. Ordinarily it will be organised on the basis of the village community as a primary unit. If villages are too small they may, with the consent of the people, be grouped together so as to have a population of about 1,000.

Broadly the basic functions of a Service Cooperative are as follows :—

(*a*) The provision of credit in close coordination with the production programme for the village and assistance in particular to those who do not obtain credit under ordinary commercial banking principles;

(*b*) Arranging for distribution of fertilisers received for the village and their supply on credit to farmers;

(*c*) Arranging for distribution of other production requirements such as seeds, manures, ploughs, insecticides, cattle feed, etc.;

(*d*) Arranging for collection of surplus produce of the members for sale through the nearest marketing society; and

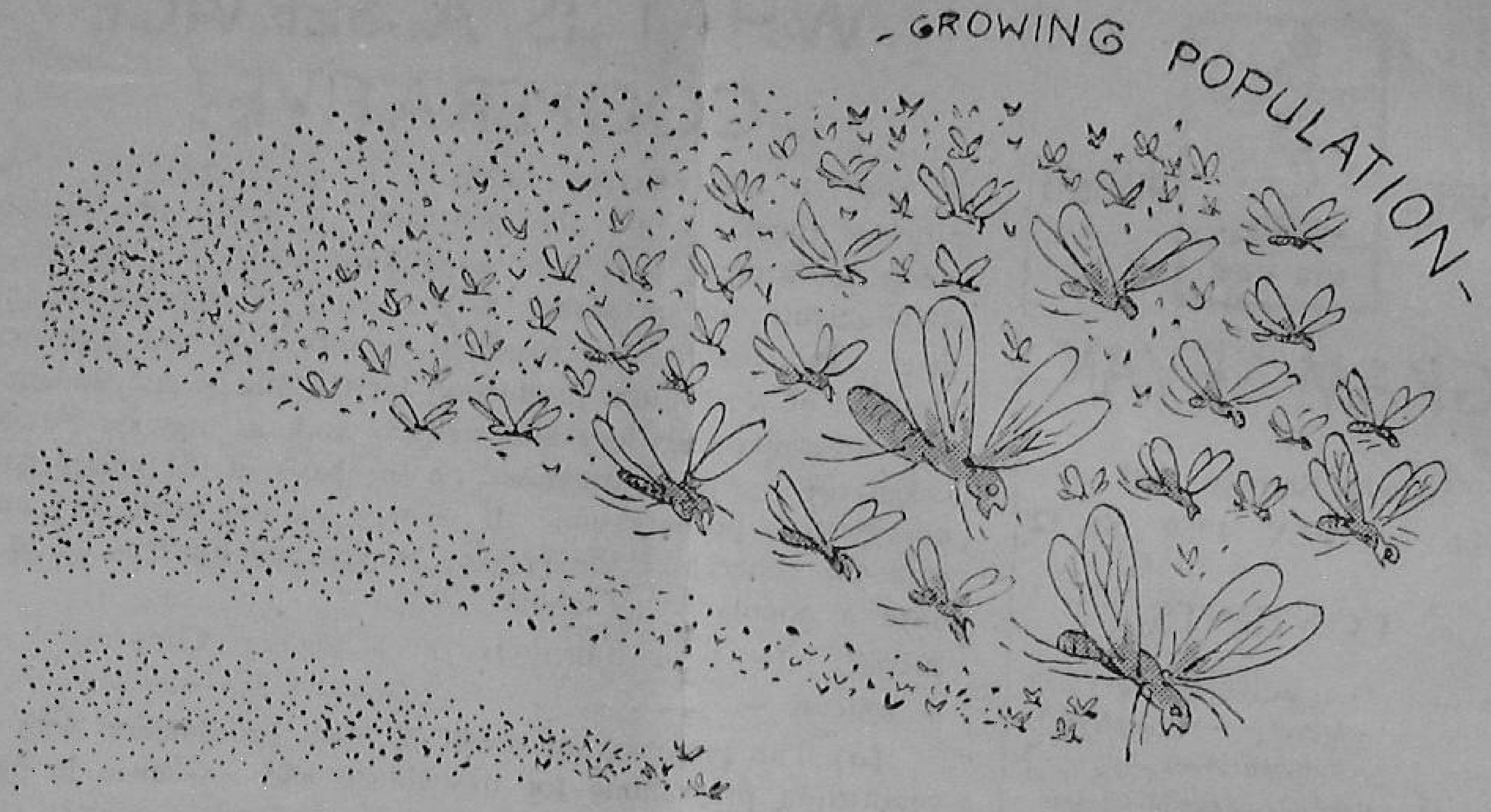
(*e*) Arranging for supply of consumer goods to members against indents.

In addition, the Service Cooperative may select progressive farmers in the village and they may be helped to multiply good seed obtained from Government farms and registered growers. They may also organise the production of organic manures locally by various means, *e.g.*, green manuring, compost pits, collection of night soil etc.

In areas, where primary societies are working, they have to be reorganised so that their functions may be extended. In areas where there are no primary societies, new service cooperatives should be organised. Application from 10 to 15 persons may be taken as sufficient for registration of the society. Sufficient education should also be provided before organisation of a new society so that the foundation may be laid on a sound basis.

The service cooperative is to be affiliated to the (*i*) Central Cooperative Bank, (*ii*) Nearest Marketing Society and (*iii*) Supervising Union.

Share capital should go on increasing from year to year. Towards this, part payment of share capital and collection of additional share capital deposits etc. should be encouraged. The members should be induced to buy one or two shares every year after harvest.


-GROWING POPULATION-

-GROWING PRODUCTION-

# *Why are we Afraid of Co-operatives?*

RATNAKAR RAO

*B. D. O. Palair*

OUR. FACTION-RIDDEN country-side is not always a straight road for the extension worker. Very often he is confronted with the forces of reactionary vested interests aligning against the humble efforts towards community development. Extension work itself is a peaceful struggle against the forces of factionalism and vested interests.

These are not mere theoretical assessments. Hard facts, heart-breaking truths experienced by the field workers justify them. Here is one such incident which happened in a village in my block.

The village, with a fair middle class population, is situated in one of the economically prosperous areas of the country. When this area came in the orbit of the Community Development programme, the villagers' enthusiasm found a ready response from the Governmental agency. Within a short time most of the roads inside the village were made pucca, and were lined with drains. The Japanese Method of paddy cultivation found immediate favour with the residents. Green-manuring became the rule. The youth rallied round the Young Farmers' Club. A radio was installed and a library sprang up. Enthusiasm was writ large on every face.

Who ever imagined, that at the back of this peaceful atmosphere, vicious undercurrents were eating away the foundation of this edifice? Community activity brought to the forefront a new type of leadership and the selfish profit-motivated, customary leaders got exposed and isolated in due course. While they lay low, they waited for the opportune moment when they could inflict some damage on the extension worker. For the worker, it was like walking on the sharp edge of a knife. Any moment he was likely to be dubbed as a partisan. The factions took a sharper turn day by day.

The organisation of a co-operative milk supply Society was taken up against this background. The proposal was readily welcomed by most of the villagers. The lead was taken up by the younger section. Meanwhile, the traditional leaders, uncertain of their position in the new body, not only refused to join but planned to wreck it. By the time all preliminaries were completed, and the application was made for the registration of the society, they struck with full force. A complaint was filed that the sponsors have denied opportunities to others to join it and their (sponsors') main motive behind the society was only to secure a loan from the Government for purposes other than those for which the loan was sought. To add strength to their efforts, non-official leaders at the district level were geared. Misrepresentations, accusations and enquiries followed in its wake. The poor Extension worker was in a soup.

Ultimately we won the day, when the Collector after discussion with the villagers decreed that the Society may run without any governmental aid. It was a challenge to the well-intentioned ones and they took it up seriously. Soon a common yard was fixed. Two cycles and other equipment were purchased. Milking was done in the common yard and the committee members by turn watched the purity of the milk. The production of milk increased from 50 seers to 100 in course of time. The Society gained strength as days passed. The efforts to get official recognition did not cease. Delegations waited on the concerned officers. The Registrar of Co-operative Societies deputed a special officer to make a further probe. The Collector interfered. The vested interests had to sulk away. After a hard struggle of eight months, the Society received due recognition and loans for the purchase of she-buffaloes were granted by the Government. What a solace it was to the extension worker to see his efforts materialise in the long run!

# Health Co-operatives of Orissa

SURENDRA PRASAD SINHA

*Research Fellow, Department of Rural Economics and Sociology, Utkal University*

HEALTH IS fundamental to national progress in any sphere. In terms of resources for economic development, it is a measure of the energy and capacity of the people as well as of the potential of man-hours for productive work. For the efficiency of industry and of agriculture, the health of the worker is of great importance.

In the First Five Year Plan, 5.9 per cent of the total outlay (Rs. 140 crores) was spent on health services. In the Second Five Year Plan, although the absolute sum to be spent on health services increased to Rs. 274 crores, yet its percentage to the total outlay decreased to 5.7 per cent. As a result of planned expenditure on health services during the First Plan period, it is estimated that the number of medical institutions increased by 16 per cent and of beds by 10 per cent. It is expected that by the end of the Second Five Year Plan, there may be an increase of about 26 per cent in institutions and of about 24 per cent in hospital beds.

It is realised by all concerned that the provision of adequate health protection to the rural population is the most urgent need of the hour. For this purpose primary health units have been established in as many development blocks as possible for providing an integrated preventive and curative medical service in rural areas. In the First Five Year Plan 725 health units were set up and it is proposed to establish over 3,000 health units in N.E.S. Community Project areas by the end of the Second Five Year Plan. It is also proposed to convert nearly 131 existing dispensaries into primary health units and to set up a number of secondary health units.

Experiments in Health Co-operatives are being carried out by "American Friends Society (Quakers)" at Barpali in the district of Sambalpur, Orissa. The Quakers have adopted health services as a part of general extension services covering nearly 44 villages in that area. Their health programmes consist of two constitutents namely pre-paid health schemes and health co-operatives. Both combined together, they form a programme of Health Insurance Scheme.

## THE SCHEME

Under the pre-paid health scheme started from 1955, covering 33 villages every member under this scheme has to pay Rs. 2-4 per year as a membership contribution for a family of 6 members. For every additional member an additional sum of Rs. 1-4 is charged. There are at present nearly 800 members under this scheme.

The scheme provides free services of the doctor to the members; to non-members a service charge of annas three is imposed for every visit. Medicines are sold both to members and non-members on subsidised prices. Special subsidy is given for certain diseases. For instance, T.B. patients pay Rs. 3 per month but they usually get medicines worth Rs. 20 per month. Similarly, leprosy patients pay Rs. 1 per month and get medicines worth Rs. 5 per month. Milk is given free to patients, mothers and babies. The whole expenditure under this scheme is met by the project (Quakers) and the members' contribution is utilised for payment of the salary of the health workers. The sale of the subsidised medicines is managed by the sisters (nurses).

Under the health co-operatives scheme, a health co-operative has been started at Satulma village, covering 17 villages of the Satulma panchayat area. Three hundred members have joined the co-operative and the system of contribution is the

same as that under the pre-paid health schemes. The co-operative unit has a health clinic and two nurses to look after it. The doctors from Barpali visit this clinic once a week. The services of the doctor are free to the members and non-members have to pay Rs. 5 per visit as the service charge of the doctor. This co-operative unit has three main activities: providing free services of the doctor, undertaking subsidised sale of the medicines and doing other clinical works. Membership fee is the capital of the co-operative unit and the project provides services and medicines at subsidised rates. Although it is expected that the salary of the two nurses will be met by the members themselves, yet the contribution has never been so large as to cover this item of expense. Thus the project has contributed at least 50 per cent of the expense under this head. Similarly, nearly 15 per cent cost of the medicines has been subsidised by the project. All other expenses of the unit are met by the project.

**INTEGRATION**

The commendable aspect of the whole programme is the integration of other programmes of development with the health programme. For instance, the nurses are primarily supposed to look after general clinical problems, maternity, child welfare, pre-natal and post-natal care and sanitation of the villages. But along with these activities they are also trained in sewing and gardening and as such they organise and manage sewing classes, and look after gardening, and adult education programme of the village.

Thus, it appears that the organisation of health co-operatives on similar lines in our villages where health units under N.E.S. and Community Projects schemes are not functioning will be of much help to the people. At least, free services of the doctor and subsidised sale of medicines can be provided on a large-scale through such co-operatives. Further, even in the N.E.S. areas where health units are functioning, there is great scarcity of medicines and whatever medicines are available, the prices are generally prohibitive. In such areas at least subsidised sale of medicines and grant of special subsidies for certain diseases like T.B., Leprosy, Malaria etc. as organised under the pre-paid health scheme should not be a very difficult task. We are already committed to organising development of rural areas on co-operative basis and it won't be out of place to emphasise that a good beginning can be made in this respect by organising health co-operatives in rural areas. This would create incentive for co-operation, encourage people's response and provide a base for organising many other service co-operatives needed for the planned development of rural life and living.

# FIELD SURVEY

*The Editor,*
*Gram Sevak.*

*Sir,*

*The job of the Gram Sevak is a manifold one. When a villager puts in an application for a minor irrigation loan, the Gram Sevak is asked to enquire into it, see and measure the land offered as security, estimate its value and assess how far the land is going to benefit from the loan. His recommendation decides the fate of the application. Similarly when lands are required for community works like roads, school buildings, Panchayatghars, or community centres etc., he has first to survey and assess their values, before the individual or individuals are persuaded to make either a free gift of or offer the same for sale. All these tasks require same practical knowledge in field-survey, which unfortunately the Gram Sevak does not possess. Often, therefore, his findings are not understood by the villagers. In order that this drawback can be removed, it is felt that Gram Sevaks like Revenue Inspectors should have some training in field-survey. This subject can easily be made a part of the curriculum of Gram Sevaks' training. For those who are already in service this training can be imparted during refresher courses, which the Gram Sevaks are often asked to undergo.*

*Yours etc.,*
V Guruswami Reddi,
*Gram Sevak*

17-5-59,
*Chowdepalle Block,*
*Chittoor Dt. (Andhra Pradesh).*

# A PILOT PROJECT IN CANNING

**Dr. Ram Das**

*Director, Planning Research & Action Institute, Uttar Pradesh, Lucknow.*

THE PILOT PROJECT of Mahewa, Etawah district has a place of pride in the Community Development Programme of this State. Started in the year 1948, it has completed about 10 years. Most of the agricultural practices have been accepted by the village masses and considerable headway has been made in carrying out activities in the field of health, education, social education, local development and youth welfare works, etc. These programmes are developing and will continue to develop as the people take more and more initiative in formulating their own plans and their execution. It was, however, felt by the villagers that they needed some more projects to continue their initiative in the various fields, particularly in agriculture.

## PRE-PILOT PROJECT

Mahewa Block was completely saturated with Pea T-163. During 1957-58, local Block officials and village people desired to try some table varieties of peas, to be grown in their area for canning purposes. With this idea in view, they grew peas in a few villages round about Mahewa to find out whether the canning of peas was possible. They further desired that a pilot project may be taken up by the Planning Research and Action Institute, U.P., to help the cultivators in this direction.

The Planning Research and Action Institute, seeing the keenness of the people, decided to launch a pre-pilot experiment to see whether such a proposal would be worthwhile. It was, therefore, decided in the season to transport peas from Mahewa area to Lucknow and to see whether the experiment of canning could be successful with these peas. Accordingly, 484 maunds of peas were utilised for canning purposes and 12,800 tins were prepared out of this quantity. The cultivators further sold 794 maunds of green peas to other canners of the State. This pre-pilot experiment proved successful. After meeting all expenses and paying the cost of peas @ Rs. 6 per maund to the cultivators, the Mahewa Union was able to make some nominal profits out of this business. The cultivators got much better rates for their green peas than they could have got from their ordinary crop.

Being encouraged with this venture, the cultivators of the nearby villages of Mahewa decided to start a Food Processing Co-operative Society of their own at Mahewa. They agreed to collect funds towards the share capital and requested the Co-operative Department to help them in financing the project. The Industries and Co-operatives Section of the Planning Research and Action Institute under the guidance of Mr. Y. Lang Wong, Industrial Adviser to the U.P. Government deputed to the Institute under the Colombo Plan, undertook to start the project.

At present, there are 63 members of the Fruit Processing Co-operative Society. They have purchased shares of the nominal value of Rs. 15,200 out of which they have paid Rs. 3,595 as cash and the rest they will pay in instalments. Shares worth Rs. 5,000 have been purchased by the Co-operative Union, Mahewa. The Co-operative Department has invested Rs. 20,000 towards the purchase of share capital of this society. The Industries Department, U.P., and the Co-operative Bank, Etawah, have advanced loans to the extent of Rs. 23,500 for meeting the expenses of the society. This is how the whole project has been financed

The members planted 53 acres of table pea of variety No. T29 and Marrow Fat and 5510.

## PLANS FINALISED

Plans for the installation of the unit at Mahewa were finalised some time in October 1958. Team members of the Co-operative and Industries Sections, under the guidance of Industrial Adviser, contacted various firms and made inspections of the equipment in consultation with the members of the Board of Directors and placed orders for the equipment required by the industry. The entire equipment was obtained in January 1959 and building construction

work was taken up simultaneously. The unit was brought into commission in February 1959. The total cost on investment in the unit is to the tune of about Rs. 50,000. This consists of one Ruston Engine, one boiler, exhaust box, two stainless steel tilting pans, retorts, seamers, can-body reformer, aluminium tables, electric generators etc.

The members started supplying peas to the processing society and it is expected that even in the first year of the running of the unit, it will be a commercial success.

### SPECIAL FEATURES

This unit is the first of its type in the State. It has the following special features :—

1. It is a co-operative enterprise.

2. The unit has been set up in rural areas.

3. Members who grow peas for canning purposes live within a radius of about 2 miles.

4. This is the first industrial activity in the processing of agricultural commodities in the Pilot Development Project, Etawah.

5. It has got a very good potential of providing employment to the local people. The Unit works in two shifts, employs about 170 persons who are paid Rs. 1-4 to Rs. 1-8 per day according to the type of duties they are required to do. Besides this, landless labourers' and small cultivators' families find employment in picking peas from the fields. Some persons find employment in transport of peas from villages to the factory.

6. Total investment is to the tune of Rs. 50,000 which is not heavy considering the employment potential.

7. Another important feature of the unit is that about 15 students from the local college work in the night shifts and thereby they are able to earn wages to meet their educational expenses.

8. Other products like tomato sauce, canned Petha, rasberries jam, guavas and mangoes, can also be prepared in the unit. The unit can remain in operation, for about 7-8 months in a year.

9. Pea growers get Rs. 200 to Rs. 300 additional income per acre from the pea crops.

10. 70 new hands have received training for production work. They are able to handle equipment and are doing very good work in the various processes of canning. The maximum daily production has been to the tune of about 2,000 cans per day but it can be increased to about 3,000 when the workers gain further efficiency in this work.

11. About 25,000 tins have been prepared so far and the factory is still in operation.

12. Sale prices have been fixed low to benefit the consumers.

---

# COW DUNG GAS PLANTS

THE UNION MINISTRY of Community Development and Cooperation has requested the State Governments to set up five cow dung gas plants in a Block around an extension training centre having an agricultural workshop.

The State Governments have also been informed that, although they may set up more than five plants, the expenditure on this account from the Block budget is not to exceed Rs. 2,500.

The cow dung gas plants, to be set up as an experimental measure, are to demonstrate amongst farmers the utility of these plants.

The decision on the location of the sites for the installation of the plants is to be made by the Block Development Committees, such location, as far as possible, being determined by the proximity of the agricultural workshop of an agricultural extension training centre, or an agricultural engineering, irrigation workshop of the State, or the State agricultural workshop, or a private firm.

While the State Government will allocate the necessary iron and steel, the initial manufacturing of the plants and the supervision and maintenance will be the responsibility of the agricultural workshop, or a private the extension training centre, with guidance from the Indian Agricultural Research Institute.

# I WORK IN VILLAGES

**Ajit Gupta**

*Based on the experience of an old Gram Sevak as re-told by the writter*—Ed.

IN 1942 WHEN the "Quit India" movement started, I was in school. Bogged to my desk, I looked around at times to see processions passing. And one day under a strong emotional urge, I left the desk to join a procession. I never returned to the school.

That day, still vivid in my memory, a twitch of agony cut aslant my heart, and I felt I must serve my motherland.

Since then, some years for me were divided between political imprisonment and social work in villages. In those days, indeed, I was baptised for the solemn task of rebuilding our country which had, meanwhile, become politically free.

Nineteen hundred and fifty-two. I was working in a remote village when I heard that, countrywide, a Community Development Programme was being started. They were looking for some Gram Sevaks. I offered myself. I was selected.

## NOTHING NEW

I joined a training centre. Having had done a great deal of work in the villages, I found little of interest and newness in the method of approach, but the technical devices in which we were trained fascinated me.

Later, I was posted in Mohammadbazar. With my past experience of village life, I decided not to stay in anybody's house. I lived in a tent pitched in a mango garden. A little solitariness in the beginning is helpful; for the first impression of a villager is more telling than that of a sophisticated man. The first few days I toured intensively and took mental samples of the terrain of the country and the environments.

This tour convinced me that good roads and drinking water were the most pressing needs of the people. The people were very backward, very poor. To work for improving their condition was indeed difficult, but it was, in a way, very helpful and gratifying that the village politics was not virulently rampant.

During the first phase of my work, I decided not to bring any money. Until the appropriate mental climate in the villages is created, financial help is of little avail; people greedily seek to get money from the Government, and show little agility or eagerness for corporate efforts.

## ACTION PROGRAMME

I knew a few action programmes were necessary to arouse enthusiasm among the villagers. In this a Gram Sevak has to take the lead. A golden opportunity came my way.

The culvert of a small bridge was broken, with the result that bullock carts, unable to pass halted on one side and cartmen carried goods on their heads. It was a tiresome and teasing job; even then, it seemed nobody's business to repair the bridge. I took up the work and got it repaired with bamboos. At least an impression was created, and peoples' faith in my bonafides increased.

My next venture was among the Santals and Bagdis. Due to a strong feeling of casteism, these people were not allowed to draw water from the wells located in Caste Hindu localities. The entire area in Mohammadbazar Block, particularly the Santal and Bagdi villages, cried for water. It hurt me that religious bigotry could still suppress bare human considerations. Under the drinking water supply programme, a ring well could be dug with the Government and public contribution of two-thirds and one-third respectively.

The most important programme I took up, according to my estimation, was that of Dharmagola. The system in the village was that a poor man took one maund of rice from an affluent man in the rainy season and returned one and a half maund after the harvest. According to the Dharmagola programme, one cultivator will contribute three maunds out of the total yield from 15 or 16 bighas of land. Poor people will borrow from this stock at the rate of one and a half maund for one maund, and the balance will be used for public works, such as road repairs, tuition fees for poor children etc. On the whole, the response was good.

During those years, there was no statutory Panchayat. I asked the people to form panchayats and, in this, the fact that our

Project Executive Officer, a lawyer, could arbitrate was very helpful. Very soon some Panchayats grew and later these took contracts of work under the Patel Memorial Fund Scheme. The profits earned from these contracts were contributed to the Panchayat fund. I was very happy that no villager ran to any other Court of justice after the Panchayats were formed. I have now this pleasant feeling also that in my old area first election for a statutory Panchayat has not been necessary, people having voted for the same set of people. I also made considerable use of these panchayats in implementing the different programmes.

The Harisabha or the Barwaritola became so effective a forum that I could put across the different schemes to the people right there.

## NO ELECTION STUNT

I started collecting one-third contribution in kind from the Santals and Bagdis. Most of them quite willingly co-operated, though I must confess there was some opposition too. Some "enlightened" villagers spread a canard that there was little truth in what I said, that my ventures were "election stunts". Once or twice, I would also confess, the opposition was so bitter and painful that, were I not well-groomed in village uplift work, I would have cried out in despair and left the village.

My work on the "ring well front" went ahead and in one union about 28 or 30 wells were dug. I still remember the briskness in the village life these wells brought, the signs of happiness and contentment were unmistakable.

In this context, an incident at Raotara village was remarkable. Nadersha, a villager, who while digging a well fell down suddenly and died. All the villagers saluted to the memory of Nadersha, one of their own and pledged themselves to complete the work. It was indeed a grand example of collective work. As a matter of fact, the moral of this incident infected many villagers and my work became, as a result, comparatively simpler.

While I was plodding on the "water front", I touched the Social Education programme also. Such centres I mostly started at Haritala or Barwaritola, the usual meeting places in villages. Here, too, casteism was a problem. The Santals and Bagdis were never allowed before to assemble here; at my request they were allowed to come, but would not sit. Only at Uska village I set up the Social Education centre in a separate structure. Later two more centres were housed in newly-built cottages.

A village library was set up with a public contribution of Rs. 800. Anyhow the library scheme, possibly due to the preponderance of other acute problems, did not cut much ice with the villagers.

There was one High School in one Thana. Students found the journey from distant villages difficult, but little could be done to remove this difficulty. I, however, got four primary schools converted into Junior Basic Schools, one of these later into a Middle English School.

## NEW JOBS

Sometime in 1956, I was transferred as a Field Supervisor-*cum*-Agricultural Inspector to Nalhati Block. Nearly three years in Puranagram union were a period of hard work for me; nevertheless, I found pleasure in it and also found lively and zealous companions in the Santals and Bagdis.

At Nalhati, my work was mainly agricultural. After a short spell here, I was transferred to Bijra Pilot project in the Memari Development Block in the Burdwan District.

Birbhum and Burdwan Districts seemed to me different. While in Mohammadbazar Block it was easy for me to win confidence, at Bijra it was initially difficult because of the political consciousness of the local inhabitants. A fairly large proportion of the people here are literate and self-conscious. They prefer matter-of-fact and practical propositions.

We started mat-making industry among women and Satranchi-making among men. When they were asked to work on wages, there was a good response. We gradually started cottage mat and hand-made paper industries.

In 1959, I was transferred to Baruipur Pilot project. Before I left Bijra, great strides had been made on the Cottage industries front, great enthusiasm had been aroused among old women who are now making a decent living. In seemingly decadent villages, a spark of life is visible.

# BAT-CHIT

*Villager*: Ram, Ram, Gram Sevak Sahib. We are meeting after a pretty long time. I hope, you are keeping fit.

*Gram Sevak*: Ram, Ram; Bhai Sahib. I am quite alright. But I could not come to your village earlier because I had been busy in the neighbouring village—Badli where, as you know, a two-mile approach road is being built. The villagers are expected to do the entire earth work, and the Government would meet the expenditure on making it pucca.

*Villager*: But what were you actually doing there? Did you also throw some baskets of earth on the road?

*Gram Sevak*: Of course, I did. I am not afraid of doing manual labour. But........

*Villager*: Yes, yes. I know that you never shirk manual work. But you were saying something........

*Gram Sevak*: Yes. What I meant was that I had been going daily to the village for the last fortnight and persuading the villagers to come out to do the earth-work. Some would come out readily whereas others would not move an inch. I had to spend many hours every day arguing and pleading with people to come out of their homes to do the earth work. And this, you know, is the most difficult part of the job.

*Villager*: I understand what you mean. It is extremely difficult for one man to shoulder the responsibility of hundreds of other persons. The wheels of progress would move smoothly and speedily if only each village and every member of the village realised his or her responsibility to the community.

*Gram Sevak*: You are perfectly right, Bhaiji. It is that what we lack. Even the recent Evaluation Report refers to this defect in a pointed manner.

*Villager*: What is that Evaluation Report you talk of? I have never heard about it.

*Gram Sevak*: You see, there is an independent organisation set up by the Planning Commission to take stock of the progress of our development work made in various fields from time to time. It tries to give an impartial survey of our work.

*Villager*: Indeed, a Report like this should be a very useful one. Now tell me, what does it say about our programme in the villages? I would particularly like to know wherein we have failed in realising our objectives.

*Gram Sevak*: You know, one of the declared objectives of our programme is to make it really a "People's movement" so that the villagers themselves undertake the responsibility for framing and executing the plans for local development. The Report says that the results achieved so far in this connection are not satisfactory. The non-officials have not taken adequate interest in the programme. What do you say to this?

*Villager*: I think the Report is right. And non-officials as well as officials are to blame for this. We, the villagers have all along been under the impression that the development plans for our villages are to be made in the B.D.O. Sahib's office or at the State headquarters in the Development Commissioner's office and that our duty is only to carry out these programmes whenever we are called upon to do so. That is how we built the road, the school and carried out pavement of streets in our village.

*Gram Sevak*: This is exactly where our people have a wrong impression. They should never treat the schemes as 'hukams' from above. They should know that the various items in the Programme are to be suggested by them. As a matter of fact they must prepare

their own plans and execute them. The Government officials are there only to help and guide them. The Panchayats should prepare plans for the whole village on the basis of individual family plans. The Government are giving the Panchayats more powers for preparing them for their new role.

*Villager* : I see your point. You want that the villages should not depend on Government initiative alone for development purposes.

*Gram Sevak* : Yes. That is exactly what is aimed at. But you know this is a very difficult task. This is essentially a task of mass adult education.

*Villager* : I agree with you, Gram Sevak Sahib! But please tell me in what ways the non-officials can play a more effective role in furthering the development programme.

*Gram Sevak* : Each family in the village should prepare its own plan. The village Panchayat should formulate and execute its plans based on the family plans. The non-official members of the Block Development Committees should play a more effective part in influencing decisions regarding the development schemes.

*Villager* : All right. Now tell me if there are any other important observations made in the Report concerning our programme.

*Gram Sevak* : Yes. For example, regarding the cottage and small-scale industries, it says that a right beginning is yet to be made and no proper solution of their basic problem of limited market is in sight. The Report goes on to say that in the final analysis, the future of rural industries depends on their capacity to compete with the factory industries.

*Villager* : That means efforts will be made to improve the production techniques, management and marketing of the small-scale industry products so that it compares favourably with the large factory products.

*Gram Sevak* : Yes. For example, increasing use of electric power in place of the manual labour is considered essential for such a healthy development.

*Villager* : There is good deal of talk about Cooperatives these days. What does the Report say about this?

*Gram Sevak* : Yes, it suggests that in order that the small co-operative societies might be more serviceable, they should be linked with marketing and rules governing the advancement of loans should be so changed that even persons who are known as "non-credit worthy" may be able to get loans for production.

*Villager* : That is all very well, Gram Sevak Sahib! But has the Report anything to say about our community centre. I sometimes cannot understand in what way it is useful to our village.

*Gram Sevak* : Yes. The Report says that 65% of the persons interviewed had no understanding of social education and only 7% had a good understanding. The Report has drawn the attention towards the necessity of concentrating more on literacy programme, as the people show a marked preference for its educational rather than recreational aspect.

*Villager* : Thank you Gram Sevak Sahib for telling me about this Evaluation Report. What a pity such Reports do not seem to make much impression on the working of our programme!

*Gram Sevak* : No. The findings of the Evaluation Report are always duly considered and necessary changes are made in the programme from time to time. But all this takes some time. In our Programme we learn even by committing mistakes. Do you think, we have made no progress for the last seven years?

*Villager* : Yes. I agree there is some progress made, for example, now there is greater emphasis on that the village people should be made to work out their own programme.

*Gram Sevak* : Suggestions are also made by members of the Parliament and the State Assemblies and these help to keep the Programme on the right path.

*Villager* : Please tell me what steps will now be taken to implement these suggestions.

*Gram Sevak* : These suggestions will be discussed at various levels in the Panchayats, Block Committees, District Committees and at State headquarters. In fact, there is also an annual conference where all the States and the Central Government discuss these suggestions and devise steps for carrying them out.

*Villager* : I quite see your point. You have an elaborate system of examining these suggestions.

*Gram Sevak* : Yes. I will talk about this system next time we meet.

# PROGRESS OF CO-OPE

## *Andhra Pradesh*

THE GOVERNMENT of Andhra Pradesh proposes to start collective farms in each development block in the State. Disclosing this at a press conference, Mr. Mehdi Nawaz Jung, Minister for Co-operation, said recently, that this would be in addition to the service co-operatives that are to be constituted.

One collective farm, extending over an area of 500 acres, was already functioning in the Badwel taluk of the Cuddapah district. Plans to start similar farms in the Kolleru lands in the delta area with a minimum of 1,000 acres for each farm have been drawn up. The Warangal and Khammam districts also would have such farms.

Mr. Mehdi Nawaz Jung said that while the aim of the Union and State Governments was to see that the maximum number of service co-operatives was brought into existence before the end of the Second Plan, their formation would be hastened only after a clear picture of the pattern of financial aid to be given by the Reserve Bank of India was available. This was necessary in view of the fact that service co-operatives would have to handle credit godown facilities also.

Andhra University has created a chair for co-operation to provide a base at the university level for the encouragement of the principles governing the co-operative movement. Banks in the State have subscribed funds for the creation of this chair.

## *Madhya Pradesh*

THE MADHYA PRADESH Government has drawn up a scheme to bring the entire rural population in the State under the co-operative movement in the next seven years.

The scheme provides for the establishment of 21,000 new village co-operative societies and the conversion of 22,000 existing societies, mostly credit bodies, into service co-operatives.

At present, less than 17 per cent of the rural population of the State is covered by the co-operative movement.

Service co-operatives will have wide sphere of activity ranging from supply of credit to agriculturists at cheap rates to opening up avenues of employment to villagers. The societies will also be expected to market agricultural produce, supply improved agricultural implements and establish cottage industries.

The State Government is also contemplating to entrust the distribution of taccavi and other agricultural loans to the service co-operatives and to empower them to accept money deposits.

The Government proposes to launch a training programme on a vast scale both for officials and non-officials of the societies.

It is proposed to appoint a full-time paid manager for each service co-operative society. The society will be given a grant of Rs. 900 to meet expenses on this account for the first five years.

To begin with, the Government has decided to start 1,000 service co-operative societies in the State this year. A supplementary plan for the Co-operative Department for the current year has been prepared and will shortly be submitted to the Planning Commission.

## *Jammu & Kashmir*

IN ORDER TO provide opportunities to the peasant families to supplement their incomes through handicrafts, wool spinning centres are being opened in the State to give employment to 50,000 women during the Third Plan period. Some weaving centres are also proposed to be set up during this period which will offer employment to a few thousand men also. Both weaving and spinning centres will be run on co-operative lines and wool will be procured from the producers directly. This will reduce considerably the cost of production and the consumers will buy the woollen goods at reasonable prices from the co-operative consumers' stores. The middleman will be eliminated. Only this could assure minimum wages to the workers, employment to the unemployed, reduced prices to the consumers and enhanced prices to the producers.

The peasants are taking to co-operatives enthusiastically and their number has grown from a meagre 79 in 1947 to 2¼ lakhs this year. By linking up marketing with credit, the peasants sold Rs. 9 lakhs worth of goods.

By the end of 1961, 1,000 service co-operatives will be set

# RATION IN THE STATES

up in accordance with the recommendations of the National Development Council. Each service co-operative will work for the promotion of agricultural production in each "halqa" consisting of two to five villages with an approximate population of 1,000 people. Rs. 32 lakhs were distributed as loans among peasants till the end of March this year. A further sum of Rs. 25 lakhs will be distributed as loans among farmers against cash crops of 1959-60. About 1,00,000 maunds of fertilizers will also be distributed among farmers.

## *Punjab*

DURING THE first three years of the second Plan, 83 per cent of the rural area was brought under 27,333 co-operative societies with an outlay of Rs. 2.46 crores, said Shri Gurbanta Singh, Minister for Co-operation, in a chat with the pressmen at Jullundur on May 19.

The Minister added that out of 26 lakh families, six lakh families were members of credit societies and that it would be possible to enlist all rural families before the end of the third Plan.

Shri Gurbanta Singh added that 118 marketing-*cum*-processing societies were formed for the disposal of agricultural products at fair prices. Besides, 16 marketing societies were appointed sole purchasing agents and 22 marketing societies partial procuring agents under the State trading scheme.

Regarding co-operative farming, he said that 178 better farming and 562 co-operative farming societies were functioning in the State. Also, Rs. 8 lakhs have been placed at the disposal of panchayats to popularize cottage industries on co-operative basis.

## *Uttar Pradesh*

AS MANY AS three crores of rupees are now being made available every year to the 16.50 lakhs of cane-growers of Uttar Pradesh by the 119 cane co-operative unions in the shape of cheap credit for development activities, including purchase of seed, manure, improvement of irrigation facilities etc. The network of cane co-operatives is spread over 36,000 villages of Uttar Pradesh. Latest reports reveal that the entire supplies of cane to the factories are now controlled and managed by the cane co-operatives. The sugar industry of Uttar Pradesh occupies an important place in the country. There are 68 working sugar factories and over 50 per cent of the total output of sugar in India is produced in the State.

All the villages in the community development blocks in the State will have co-operative societies within the next three months, according to a programme drawn up by the planning department of the Government. About half the area and population of the countryside in the State is under the blocks at present. The department hopes to have seeds, fertilizers and other agricultural needs supplied through service co-operatives in at least ten per cent of the villages in the blocks during the next kharif season.

## *Rajasthan*

THE WORKING group set up by the State Government on service co-operatives has suggested that villages having a population of 500 or less should be grouped together with the consent of the village communities to have a service co-operative for a population of 1,000 to 1,500.

The working group felt that if the principle of a panchayat and a co-operative society for a village or a group of villages was to be translated into action, no time should be "lost in delimiting the boundaries" of panchayats to conform to a population unit of 1,500 to 2,000.

The group suggested that the area of a panchayat having a population of about 1,000 to 1,500 could be coterminus with either one or to two service co-operatives.

The working group was not in favour of adopting the second pattern suggested by the working group of the Ministry of Community Development and Co-operation, relating to the proposal that primary societies in sparsely populated and economically backward areas should federate with a credit union of a group of villages for their requirements of credit. The group felt that this arrangement

was likely to lead to a multiplicity of co-operative institutions for an area and would result in cumbersome method of operation.

As regards loans to be given to villagers for unproductive purposes, the group strongly recommended that funds should be made available to the service co-operatives for such purposes and loans granted out of it to the members of these societies. It also recommended that in the first instance, Rs. 50 lakhs should be found by the co-operative institutions from within their own funds and Rs. 50 lakhs provided out of the State funds.

## *Bihar*

A SUGGESTION made at the All India Telghani (Village Oil Industry) Conference at Bhagalpur (Bihar), on April 25, for issuing import licence for copra from Ceylon and giving financial help to telghani co-operatives has been accepted by the Government. Over 1,400 delegates representing 2,000 telghani co-operative societies attended the conference. Bihar has 601 such societies with a capital of Rs. 5 lakhs and a membership of 12,625. The village oil industry in Bihar provides employment to about 10,000 persons. Last year 22,000 maunds of mustard oil was produced by ghanis in Bihar.

Twenty per cent of the families in Bihar had joined co-operatives by the end of 1958. The progress on the co-operative agricultural credit side had shown improvement. Agricultural credit advanced by the State Co-operative Bank had gone up from Rs. 28.51 lakhs in 1951-52 to Rs. 172.42 lakhs in 1957-58.

78 co-operative farming societies had been formed in Bihar till March 31, this year. It had been decided to organize only joint co-operative farming societies, which would enable the members to pool their lands voluntarily while retaining their right of ownership. There were also 41 Sarvodaya Sahyog Samities, which could conduct cultivation jointly or individually. It was proposed to set up 300 co-operative farming societies during the second Plan.

## *Orissa*

A SUM OF about Rs. 17 lakhs is proposed to be spent during 1959-60 on various co-operative development programmes in the State. During the year, attempts will be made to organize societies with a smaller area of coverage in the light of the recent decision of the National Development Council. Measures will also be taken to strengthen some of the co-operative central banks, the State Co-operative Bank and the Provincial Land Mortgage Bank through share capital contributions. Assistance is also proposed to be given to the State Co-operative Marketing Society and the Regional Marketing Societies for providing them with adequate managerial staff and for setting up one jute baling plant. Experiments are also to be carried on in the sphere of co-operative farming.

The total credit available through co-operatives is proposed to be increased from Rs. 400 lakhs to Rs. 550 lakhs and membership from 30 per cent to 36 per cent of the agricultural population of the State. During the year, marketing societies doing business in fertilizers would expand their business to other marketing activities also.

A scheme for giving co-operative training to members of Block Development Committees in Orissa was discussed by the executive committee of the Orissa State Co-operative Union when it met at Cuttack on March 29. It was resolved to take up the scheme and run training centres at three of the following five places : Puri, Berhampur, Sambalpur, Bargarh and Bolangir. These centres, selected at Revenue Divisional Commissioner Circle level, will not be seasonal but will run throughout the year. These centres will be conducted by some trainer-instructors to be recruited possibly from among non-officials with a background of social service.

# B.D.O. THE SNOWMAN

**D. K. Negi**

*B.D.O. Pangi, (Himachal Pradesh)*

DON'T YOU believe a snowman B.D.O.? There are many of them in the Himalayan ranges. I have seen one of them and I will take you to him.

The name of his block is Pangi in the Chamba district of Himachal Pradesh. The people belong to the Scheduled tribe of Pangwalas and Lahaulas. All the villages in this block are situated on either side of Chanderbhaga (Chenab) river or its small tributaries. The length of this block is 81 miles with an area of 707 sq. miles, but the population is only 10,977 souls. Kilar is the headquarters.

To meet the B.D.O. you will have to cross a mountain pass. One way leads from Kulu through Rohtang pass—an altitude of about 10,000 feet. About 150 miles of road march is needed to reach the headquarters. Another path is *via* Sach pass, 72 miles trek from Chamba. The pass is at a height of 14,000 feet. Other passes like Chaini and Drati are only for the snowmen. Others cannot cross them. There is another way from Batot in Jammu, but this is even worse.

Maps available show a road of 2 to 4 ft. width along the Chanderbhaga river linking the two ends of the block, but in fact there is nothing like a road. In the course of a journey on this road, at many places, one has to cling to the hard rocks like a suckling baby to the mother; he must possess the firmness of footsteps of monkeys and the sureness of a hawk's flight. A small error or negligence means a straight fall into the river. At three places, one has to cross the river. The first is a bridge which is in such a broken condition that authorities concerned have been kind enough to fix a notice warning the travellers to cross the bridge at their own risk. The people take the risk because there is no other way out. At another, there is a bridge of three hanging ropes made of crushed and twisted shrubs. The span of this bridge is 235 ft. and it swings when one walks over it. It is made by villagers themselves and is changed every year. It is an acrobatic feat to walk on a single rope with one in each hand. Below flows the silent ever-inviting chanderbhaga river, with her wide open lap (to take full responsibility if unfortunately there is a fall.) The third is a thin iron rope-way which again is equally dangerous. Rain water brings down numberless rolling stones, snowfall is followed by avalanches and in bad weather all tours have to be cancelled for personal safety.

Not to speak of jeep, even mules or other transport animals are not available there. There are no shops in between the two ends of this block and therefore all foodstuff, utensils and complete bedding are to be carried on human back. Unfair weather may check the further progress or retreat in tours and many a time, brings one to starvation.

Kilar, the headquarters of the block is a small village. Forest house, rest house and a hospital are the only Government buildings. All the employees have to take houses on rent from the villagers. The availability of houses is very scarce and those which are available have broken all the rules of sanitation and hygiene. Small rooms with no windows and even the doors have been fixed in such a way that they allow neither light nor air to pass through them. There are 3 or 4 shops at the headquarters but regular supply of even the barest necessities of

life is not ensured. Some time for months, neither match-boxes nor kerosine oil is available. The price of those articles which are available at times, is also very high. Rates of rice range between Rs 100 and 120 per maund, wheat Rs 55 to 60 and kerosine @ Rs 1.37 nP. per bottle of 18 ozs. In the days of Maharaja, the public servants were paid a regular "Coffin allowance" which is now changed in the name of compensatory allowance which is 50% of the basic pay with a maximum of Rs 50. There is no barber and, therefore, co-operation is practiced with innumerable variety of hair-cuttings. Again there is no cobbler, so self-help is the only way out. Except potatoes, no vegetables grow there. The fuel wood is so dear that many employees allot Sunday for the collection of wood from the forests.

All communications with the rest of the world are cut off from November to April as a result of snow-fall. Even during summer, crossing of these passes is very dangerous. In the year 1958, seven people died in Sach pass either by snow or avalanches. The first meeting, according to local custom, starts with congratulation and not with good wishes or respects when one comes safe through these passes. The snowman B.D.O. is fortunate enough to get such congratulations often because meeting at the district headquarters or State headquarters is common.

Poverty reigns here. Crops often fail as a result of untimely snowfall. People eat wild grass

(*Continued on page* 19)

# *WHAT'S IN A NAME?*

**S. N. Bhattacharyya**

WHEN I VISITED village Matun in Udaipur Community Development Block, a veritable storm raised by the village elders had just subsided. Reason: They refused to address young girls, as fit to be their daughters or grand daughters, as Kakis or aunties.

Though the Community Development Programme has been working for the last seven years among the rural people, it could not make much headway among women. It not only neglected nearly half the population but made it difficult for the next generation to get any education from mothers. Not that any planning was lacking on the part of the planners! The main hurdle was the acute shortage of women workers for village work.

Rajasthan came out with a near solution. The State Government improvised the institution of Gram Kakis or Village Aunties. Two Gram Sevikas or lady village level workers for a hundred villages are something like two drops in a bucket of water. To help them, the Rajasthan Government is now raising a volunteer corps styled Gram Kakis. One Gram Kaki for each village is to do full-time work under the guidance of the Gram Sevika of the area.

They have to do simple work: how to clean the hut, instal smokeless choola, clean drinking water supply, use simple gadgets like ball bearing for hand-grinding; how to read and write a little, select nutritious food, take care of children etc.

The Gram Kaki selects 20 homes to start with. Once the women of these houses get oriented to new ideas—which is so difficult in Rajasthan's conservative villages—she takes up another 20 homes and so on till the whole village is covered.

While selecting these 20 homes, Luxmibai, the Gram-kaki of Matun had to face a storm. "You don't expect me to call her a Kaki—she is younger than my grand daughter!" exclaimed a village elder.

"Lerkiayan Kila fathe karengi?" (Are the girls going to conquer the Chitore Fort?), asked another indignant voice.

But those were at the initial stages. Now Luxmibai is very much sought after, and she has access to all the 106 families of Matun.

Luxmibai had her first inspiration and invitation from the Gram Sevika of the Block. She learned many more practical things in course of her day-to-day work. She later attended a special seminar which the Rajasthan Government arranged for Gram Kakis in each district.

"Now I do not have to go to that village at all," confided the Gram Sevika to me and I could see why.

The village homes are clean and tidy. The women are quite happy. The children are fond of their Kaki. She has endeared herself so much that the village elders no longer mind calling her Kaki. After all what is in a name?

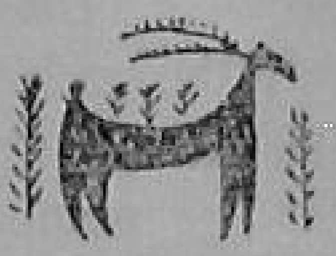
# HOW SCIENCE HELPS THE FARMER

EVERY GOOD *mali* knows that water sprinkling is just about the best method of irrigation for his little green lawn or kitchen garden. But how far this method is suitable for more extensive field irrigation is a question exercising the minds of irrigation experts and researchers.

The Sprinkler Irrigation System, as this system of controlled overhead irrigation is known, has made rapid headway during the last decade in the United States, Australia and Canada. In India, trials began only about two years ago. These have been conducted mainly at a few coffee plantations in the South and have shown very encouraging results. There are today very good chances of rapid adoption of this system in those parts of the country where farm holdings are large and water resources limited.

The Sprinkler System has a lot to recommend itself. For one thing, it offers better and more efficient control of irrigation than the traditional surface irrigation method. The real worth of this system, however, lies in its freedom from such evils as waterlogging and silting which are characteristics of the traditional system. All this makes the Sprinkler System particularly suitable for farms that depend on limited supplies of water and where, due to soil being light or porous, there is danger of excessive loss of water through seepage.

Experiments in India have confirmed these advantages and have also indicated the lines of improvement that can be made in the Sprinkler Irrigation mechanism to make it more suitable to the conditions obtaining here.



## AMMONIUM NITRATE

At the big fertilisers factory at Sindri in Bihar, they are not only working hard to raise the output to meet the growing demand for fertilisers but are also taking every care to improve the quality of chemicals produced. They know that on the quality of fertilisers produced at Sindri, depends the performance of the soil in far-flung regions.

This responsibility falls on the small group of scientists and research workers of the factory's Technological Department, which has been set up to keep a continuous check on the chemicals that come out of the factory's massive crucibles.

A recent example of the kind of problems the Technological Department at Sindri deals with, pertains to the rather odd behaviour of ammonium nitrate, one of the most widely used fertilisers. It is preferred to other fertilisers owing to its high nitrogen content. It has, however, one bad habit. It is quick to absorb moisture and cakes rapidly. The cakes harden on account of pressure present during storage. If the degree of hardness is high, the fertiliser becomes unfit for field use. Only at great expense and inconvenience, the hard lumps can be broken and made fit for distribution in the fields.

The scientists at Sindri, seized with this problem, went carefully into the causes of this phenomenon. Among other things, they discovered that moisture content of the atmosphere has a greater effect on caking of ammonium nitrate than such factors as pressure and temperature. This effect, they found on further investigation, can be mitigated in two ways, both designed to improve the keeping quality of ammonium nitrate. Firstly, it can be done by keeping the chemical in moisture-proof bags. The second method requires the addition of certain cheap and harmless substances to ammonium nitrate to immunise it from the influence of moisture and minimise danger of caking.

Sindri's Technological Department has not only succeeded in developing suitable moisture-proof bags but has also been able, after careful research, to find suitable additives to prevent caking of ammonium nitrate, enhancing the usefulness of this vital fertiliser.

# The Story of A Gram Sevak

IT IS OFTEN said that higher education is no key to success nor age a deterrent. Shri J. K. Patil, who has been selected as the best Gram Sevak of the Bombay State has proved this. He is past 42. His education is only up to Marathi Class VII. His tenure as a Gram Sevak is just three years old. Even then he has beaten many of his colleagues, younger in age and superior in educational qualifications. How? Here is the story.

Patil's service career starts from September, 1939. But his initiation to the Community Development Programme is a recent one. In June 1956, he was first posted to the Mehekar Block and in August, the same year, he became the Gram Sevak in-charge of Neemgaon circle. Neemgaon suffered from want of irrigational facilities. The water was there, but at such a depth as to be of no use. Patil understood the problem and induced the cultivators to take to electric pumps to lift the water. The result was unprecedented. Today 23 electric pumps are in operation where none existed before. Quite a large tract has been brought under agriculture. Once the supply of water is assured, Patil's task has been to introduce improved methods of agriculture. Compost pits, green manures, fertilizers and demonstration-plots have become popular with the farmers of the area. Cash and food crops like improved varieties of Cotton, Wheat, Mug and Jowar are now grown abundantly.

Neemgaon has been famous for brick-making even before Patil came. He studied the problem, visualized the scope and paved the ground for a Brick-makers' Co-operative Society. A Society with a share capital of Rs 1,025/- and 29 members on the roll has since been formed. It now awaits registration. Co-operation has been the main plank of his developmental activities in the circle. A Multipurpose Co-operative Society for the circle formed earlier has shown marked improvement. It has submitted a proposal for starting a non-edible Oil Soap industry for which purpose a sum of Rs 2,000/- has already been collected. A move is afoot to convert the existing Society into a large sized one. The Gram Sevak has also been able to establish a grain bank with 36 members and 135 bags of Jowar as shares. The establishment of the grain bank at Neemgaon has enthused the neighbouring villagers to follow the example.

Developmental activities for youth, women and children have not escaped his notice. 10 Ambar Charkhas are now plying in Neemgaon village, and the women folk are taking full advantage of them. Recently a tailoring class for women has been opened. Neemgaon today hums with the activities of the Yuvak Mandal, Balvikas Mandal, Mahila Mandal, Charcha Mandal, and a honesty shop. A library is in operation. The Farmers' Union is functioning well. The Gram Panchayat is very active.

Patil took the lead in organising the first Gram Sahayaks' Camp of Nandura Block in Neemgaon village, and those who saw the camp, were all praise for the Gram Sevak.

Today the villagers and the Gram Sevak compliment each other for the success achieved.

# THE LONE FIGHTER

IT HAPPENED in the village Ladana of Phagi Tehsil in Jaipur District. The Block had organised a Farm Leaders' Camp. Along with other Block personnel, Gram Sevak Gheesa Lal had come from Kansil circle to attend the camp.

By the side of the camp site was an old well lying unused for the last 15 years. The owner of the well, an *ex*-Jagirdar had asked an old villager—Kanahaiya to clean it and make it serviceable. The old man with his 12-year old son Shispal was engaged in cleaning it. Bucket after bucket of water and debris were taken out of the well. Then suddenly, the bucket got stuck inside. Try hard as they could, the two could not pull it out. The father then asked the young son to get down the well and free the entangled bucket. Little did he realize that poisonous gas had accumulated inside the well. The boy got down only to be overwhelmed by the gas. There was no response from the son; nor did the bucket move. The old father became worried. After a few moments of hesitation, he himself went down only to meet his son's fate. Before he could be silenced by the gas, he raised an alarm and cried for help.

The man's cry brought the campers to the spot. There were village and farm leaders, extension officers, the Panches and others of the village including relatives and close acquaintances of the father and the son. It was a helpless crowd that knew not what to do to save the two souls then struggling between life and death. Now young Gheesa Lal acted. With determined steps, he came out of the crowd, scaled the parapet, and went down the well with the help of the rope. Quick and sure-footed, he took the boy in one hand and with the other, he caught the rope. While the two were being raised by the rope, the boy slipped out of his hand and fell down. By the time he was trying to regain the balance, the gas had its effect. He too became unconscious. By the time the three were lifted out of the well, the Gram Sevak and the young boy had already succumbed to the poisonous gas. Only the old father survived.

Gheesa Lal's short life had been one of constant struggle. He belonged to village Thakursi-Ka-Bas in Phulera Tehsil of Jaipur district. He lost his father in his infancy. The mother had to fight hard against terrible odds to bring up the son. Despite poverty, the mother gave him education. Gheesa Lal fulfilled the mother's wishes, when he matriculated in 1955 and joined the Community Development programme as a Gram Sevak.

Gheesa Lal is dead. But he is very much in the hearts of thousands of villagers of Phagi Tehsil. His is a sacred memory to the project workers, all over the country.

---

## B. D. O. THE SNOWMAN

(*Continued from page* 16)

roots and bulbs in a variety of preparations. They wear wheat straw shoes which last 9 to 10 miles. It is interesting to see a person carrying 10 to 15 pairs of these shoes when he has to go to the district headquarters. People live and cook in the same room where the cattle are reared in order to maintain the temperature of the room. Illiteracy is the norm.

The hurling of stones, the thundering avalanches, the groaning rivulets and the massive rocks create a sense of awe and thrill in the human mind. Nature looks naked.

Yet even in such an atmosphere, the people enjoy. They drink, sing and dance, and their voice at the folk dances seems to break open the lofty mountains around.

In winter all around is snow. Everything white and all calm. No birds chirp. No trees wave their brānches. Even the Chanderbhaga river is silent, for there is little water.

Here lives the snowman B.D.O. and he has a good time. He tries to find the reflection of the white snow from within. He strives to look down on all wordly things from the high peaks of the Himalayas.

They are permanent Vinobas and continuous Tensings. They wonder where his fellowmen who are called "His Highness", are living. Theirs is an Empire.

# CAREERS FOR YOUNG WOMEN

TWENTY-THREE years old Shakuntala Gupta, bright-eyed and keenly studious, can now, after years of vicissitudes, look forward to an interesting and useful life.

She is one of thirty-four women, between the ages of 20 and 35, who are receiving training as Gram Sevikas in the Kamla Nehru Vidyalaya, 12 miles from Allahabad, on a grant given by the Central Social Welfare Board. Shakuntala will, on completion of training, join the growing number of women who are finding careers as village level workers in the welfare extension projects of the Central Social Welfare Board and bringing the benefits of welfare services to women and children in rural areas.

Widowed at an early age, Shakuntala refused to allow herself to become a financial burden on her family. With her educational background of 8th class Pass she found no difficulty in getting a job as a Gram Sevika in one of the projects.

Being a good worker she has been considered one of those whom further training will help to perform her job more efficiently. Shakuntala was required to pass a simple test and interview before being accepted for training. Some of her fellow examinees had, like herself, already worked as Gram Sevikas, but others were coming as fresh recruits. Within a fortnight of joining the training, those candidates found unable to cope with the course, were weeded out and were replaced by those on the waiting list.

It is estimated that about 7,800 Gram Sevikas will be needed for welfare work in the Central Social Welfare Board's projects, during the Second Plan period. Out of these, 3,000 have already been trained and provision has been made for training 2,600 more by the end of the Second Plan. These workers are employed or will be employed in 450 Projects of the original pattern and 1,000 projects in Community Development Blocks which are expected to be functioning by the end of the Second Plan.

## TRAINING SCHEMES

Faced with the problem of finding adequate personnel to run its rural welfare projects, the Central Board has sponsored schemes of training for women of mature years and requisite educational qualifications, by giving grants for training courses to voluntary welfare institutions of good standing.

The Kamla Nehru Vidyalaya, a voluntary organisation of long standing, is one of the institutions, apart from the 19 Kasturba Gandhi National Memorial Trust institutions, which have been selected to impart training. The Vidyalaya receives a recurring grant of about Rs. 43,000 for a nine-month course of Gram Sevika training. A non-recurring grant of Rs. 19,000 is also given for building and equipment. A sum of Rs. 60 per month is spent on each trainee, five rupees being given to each as pocket money. Women are also sent here by the Khadi Board for training in Ambar Charkha.

The course of training is calculated to give the trainees a wider perspective of their job and to prepare them to handle their assignment with understanding and a sense of dedication. Take, for instance, subjects like Social and Adult Education and Community Organisation which give a country wide view of these problems and the way they are being tackled. These are taught along with more specific ones like mother craft and village cleanliness. Then there is training in crafts like carpet weaving and newar making for which the yarn is dyed in the Vidyalaya itself.

## BALWADI TRAINING

The most appealing part of the programme, and one that also offers relief from class-room drudgery, is that of the teaching and general looking after of fifty-four children, between the ages of one and twelve years, who have accompanied their mothers to the institution and are treated as part of a large family. Apart from the interest which all women take in children, the trainees make themselves better prepared to be future Balwadi teachers in this way.

Shramdan in the mornings in adjoining villages brings the satisfaction that is the result of selfless labour and helping with the chores necessary to the running of any institution brings the welcome feeling of participation in a family life.

A bond signed by the trainee ensures working for a certain period of time, after the training. If she fails to do this, on grounds other than medical, the money spent on her during the period of training has to be refunded.

# THE MULTI-PURPOSE POTATO

**C. V. Mallappa**

*Gram Sevak, Malur Development Block, Stage I, Kolar Dist. Mysore*

Dear Cultivators,

Don't you know me? I am Potato—the multi-purpose. Long, long back, my forefathers came to this country from outside; but now I have become one with you all. I am an important vegetable. I am both a food and a cash crop. People all over the world use me as such. Most people, particularly those residing in towns and cities like me most. I form part of their daily dishes.

I am told that my native place is South America. In the 16th century, my ancestors were transported to various parts of the world. That's an old story. But I may tell you that though I am in this country for the last 300 years, people have not properly understood my worth. Though the conditions here are suitable for my growth, adequate attention has not so far been paid. My cultivation here is small, compared to many parts of the world. Amongst the vegetables, I occupy the maximum space, yet it is hardly 2% of the agricultural land available in the country. I am told that people in Europe and America consume 60 to 65 times more of me than here in this country. Why not take to my cultivation seriously? I assure you, you will have nothing to regret. Besides myself, my leaves serve as a good green manure, and my flour can easily substitute the flours of other cereals. I may be used for various types of foods such as dosha, Palya, Bonda, Chips etc.

My family can thrive in dry areas with a little water. I have got several varieties. The larger ones, commonly known as "Simla", "Rikeets", "Dharwar" etc., are well known. I can easily yield 300 to 1,000 mds. per acre.

Compared to other vegetables, my cultivation is easy. Six to eight inches of spacing of my tubers, depending on the variety, soil condition and climate, would give very good results. Planting season may vary from place to place, but generally, I have two seasons in a year. Unlike paddy I am not a thirsty crop; I require a small quantity of water. Heavy manuring helps me to give a good return. Organic or inorganic manures, I like both. The method of application is either before planting or at the time of earthing up. Dosage of manure per acre differs from tract to tract. My interculture is easy. Twice hoeing and earthing up are enough for me.

Usually I take 3 to 5 months to mature, but that also depends on the variety and the soil condition. The symptoms of maturing are quite clear. When I mature, the leaves turn yellow and then dry up. I may be harvested with a two-pronged *Mammuty fork*. You should know that my tubers should be allowed to dry to protect my skin from damage. I am not fit for planting immediately after harvesting. The tubers to be stored for a period of at least 3 months before they can be planted. Proper planting is essential in my case.

I am susceptible to attacks of certain kinds of pests like "Epilakana Beetle", "Tuber Borer", and am generally affected by diseases like "Ring Diseases", "Die Back" etc. - If you consult the Gram Sevak, he will tell you how to combat these diseases and pests.

I do not want to beat my own drum. Talk to the Gram Sevak, he will tell you many things, specially how I can bring rich profits with the least exertion. Try your hand at my cultivation and see what I can do for you.

Many thanks.

Your sincerely,
POTATO

# PROGRAMME PATTERN

### TEN MILLION

MEMBERSHIP of primary cooperatives in India, as at the end of 1957-58, exceeded ten million. The amount of money advanced by them to their members, excluding Kerala, was Rs. 96 crores.

Membership of primary societies has nearly doubled in the past seven years. Bombay and Andhra Pradesh led other States in increased membership, more than 200,000 members being enrolled in each of these States during the year.

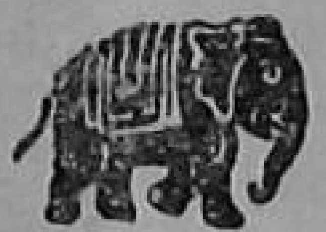
In respect of five other States, namely, Madhya Pradesh, Mysore, Madras, Orissa and Punjab, the increase has been about 100,000 each.

The membership target by the end of the second Five-Year Plan is 20 million. The total number of primary societies increased by about 4,000 and stood at 165,508 in 1957-58. At the end of the year, a little less than half of India's 5½ lakh villages had already been covered by primary agricultural cooperatives. People associated with these societies formed slightly less than 25 per cent of the country's rural population.

### MADHYA PRADESH

THE MADHYA PRADESH Government has decided to organise 1,000 village cooperatives in the State this year.

Each society will cover a population of 1,000 and will be affiliated to the nearest marketing society. Besides, the Government proposes to organise 100 small primary credit societies, 34 regional marketing societies with equal number of godowns, three industrial cooperative processing societies and five warehouses. It also proposes to reorganise 200 better farming societies, including 20 joint farming societies. Twenty thousand cooperative societies of all types have so far been established in the State. The cooperative movement in the State covers about 50 per cent of the villages and about 12 per cent of the rural population.



### FOREST LABOURERS' CO-OPERATIVES

THREE HUNDRED and thirty-eight Forest Labourers' Co-operative Societies were set up by the end of the First Five Year Plan period in the States of Andhra, Bombay, Bihar, Madras, Rajasthan, Saurashtra and Kerala. 340 more Societies are proposed to be started in the States of Andhra, Bihar, Bombay, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa, Kerala, Rajasthan and Tripura during the second Five-Year Plan.

The primary object behind the setting up of these societies is to save the tribals and other backward people living in the forest areas from exploitation at the hands of forest contractors and to help them in getting full benefit of the forest produce. The Societies are allotted forest coupes on upset prices and are given other facilities for their proper working.

The forest brings rain—the food for agricultural soils and the need for forest development is fully realised. The Co-operative Societies help bring better relation between the forest dwellers and the Forest Department and through them the middleman between the two will gradually be eliminated.

### WORKING GROUP

THE SECOND Five Year Plan envisages that the main task during the Plan period should be to take such essential steps as would provide sound foundations for the development of co-operative farming so that a substantial proportion of agricultural lands is cultivated on co-operative lines. More recently, the Government of India have accepted joint co-operative farming on a voluntary basis as the future agrarian pattern in India. Conditions have to be created in the country so that joint farming may have a fair chance of success. For this purpose, it is necessary to ensure that financial and other facilities, technical knowledge and guidance are available to those who voluntarily decide to establish joint farming societies. The Government of India have, therefore, set up a Working Group on Cooperative Farming to help the formulation of a programme for this purpose based on available experience.

# REPORT FROM VILLAGES

REPORTS RECEIVED from Development Blocks in various parts of the country indicate that the Kharif campaign is in full swing. Meetings have been conducted to train cultivators in the use of improved agricultural implements, improved seeds, chemical fertilizers, green manure, Japanese method of cultivation, etc. Gram sahayak camps have also been held to enthuse people to adhere to the improved practices during the Kharif cultivation. Targets have been prescribed for the preparation of compost pits, distribution of fertilizers, improved seeds, etc., by each Gram Sevak. An important feature of the campaign has been the active interest taken by the Co-operative Departments of the State Governments.

Members of the Kharif Campaign Committee at Taluka level are now touring the prescribed areas in the Raibag Development Block to give intensive publicity to the Kharif campaign. Thirteen co-operative societies in the Block have distributed loans of Rs. 2,34,495 to their members for agricultural purposes.

In Bidar Development Block during the fortnight ending May 31, 1959, four small-sized co-operative societies have been organised. It has been estimated that nearly 60 per cent of the villagers in this Stage II Block are now covered by agricultural co-operative credit societies.

## BLOCK SAMITIS' SUCCESS

An instance of the successful working of the recently set up Panchayat Samitis in Andhra State has come from the Kothapeta Block Samiti, whose timely action has resulted in saving tobacco and chilly crops worth several lakhs of rupees. The Block Samiti is one of the 20 established by the Andhra Pradesh Government, at the rate of one for each district, on July 1. last year. The tobacco and chilly crops in the Kothapeta Block. it is reported, were affected so severely by a pest that the quantity of pesticide available in the Block was not adequate. At the instance of the Block Samiti, therefore, the Kothapeta Co-operative Rural Bank obtained pesticide from the open market, in Bombay, and arranged for spraying the fields.

## SMALL SAVINGS

Women members of several Community Centres in West Bengal have devised a method of their own for small savings. Every week, they keep apart a handful of rice from their stock. The rice collected during the month is sold in the market and the proceeds divided equally among the members and credited to a savings bank account opened in favour of each member. This method of promoting small savings has enabled the poorer sections to make their contribution towards the small savings drive and has thrown open the campaign to almost everybody in the village. The Block authorities in the State expect that the cumulative effect of this drive would be considerable.

## VISUAL EDUCATION

Several thousand people living in Pujam, Traori and Nilokheri villages in the Nilokheri Development Block in Karnal district recently saw a mobile exhibition of photographs of select art objects from museums in India. The exhibition was organised by the National Museum with the co-operation of the

# *Fire-Proof*

The Editor,
*Gram Sevak*

Sir,

We learn that Gram Sevaks in Rajasthan are provided with two-roomed pucca buildings, which are used both for office as well as residential purposes. But here in Orissa the move is afoot to provide us with some residential accommodation built at a cost of Rs. 800/- only. The sum provided for is insufficient for the erection of a pucca building. We are not eager to have pucca buildings, but at the same time we are keen to see that the house we live in should be of such material as will not catch fire easily. In view of heavy incidence of fire in the summer months in rural Orissa, is it not worthwhile to have the roofs made of fire-proof materials and thus ensure safety to the building as well as to the stores the Gram Sevak is expected to keep with him for distribution ?

26-5-59
Bhuban, (Orissa)

Yours etc.
*D. Behera*
V.L.W.

Orientation Training Centre and the Social Education Organisers' Training Centre at Nilokheri as part of the Museum's visual education programme. The organisers of the exhibition had arranged for explanation and guidance in regard to the art objects in the local language, supplemented by literature introducing the subject. The exhibition offered an opportunity to rural people, men and women, village school students and the trainees of the Training Centres to study at one place the art treasures not easily accessible to the common people.

### NO ENTRY FEE

To encourage all Gram Sevaks, or Village Level Workers, in the country to participate in the all-India competition organised by the Ministry of Community Development & Co-operation, to award prizes to the most outstanding Gram Sevak at the national, state and district level, it has been decided to abolish the entry fee of eight annas. The first all-India competition was organised in 1958-59.

### DRINKING WATER WELLS

To meet the acute shortage of drinking water, the villagers of Aurad, a village in Bidar Development Block, have dug a well estimated at Rs. 1,000 through community effort without any aid, whatsoever, from the Government agency. The villagers of Vithalpur, another village in the Block, have also dug a well for drinking water without any aid from any Government department. The cost of the well, which has been nearly completed, is estimated at Rs. 400.

### WOMEN ONLY

The women of village Kalesara (population 2,500) in Pisangan Development Block, near Ajmer, are to have a Community Centre devoted exclusively to their own needs. The demand for a community centre for women took concrete shape when the Mahila Mandal represented to the Block authorities against most of the advantages of the Community Development programme flowing only to menfolk. Members of the Mandal said they wanted a centre to meet their own needs and were prepared to secure the land from their mem-folk and to raise the necessary financial contributions. A symbolic contribution from the State, they added, would help raise the necessary funds. With only a verbal assurance from the Block staff for a help of Rs. 1,500, as State contribution, they raised Rs. 2,500 and secured the land where stood the dilapidated Patwarkhana. Stone slabs from the building proved useful to them. The centre, started in the month of March, is nearly complete, and the Mahila Mandal hopes to start using it very shortly. Not a little of the enthusiasm of the Mahila Mandal is due to an active Gram Kaki, Ajan, Bai, who has activised the women's programme. In charge of work among women of 20 families at a time she has today the support of the entire woman population of the village.

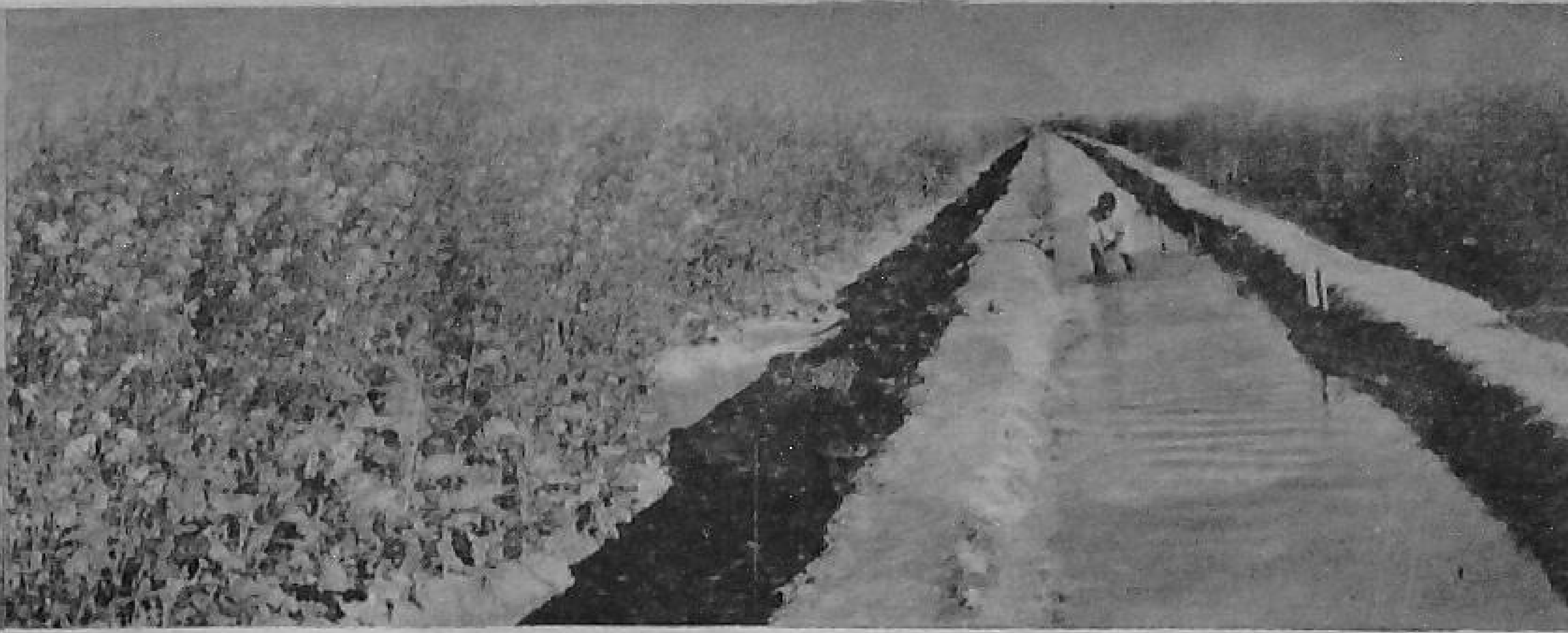
### EDUCATION WEEK

Education week has been observed in several Blocks in Mysore State to induce Harijan families to send their children to school. In Ankola Block, for instance, 44 Harijan students have enrolled themselves. Books, slates and cloth have been distributed free of cost to these children.

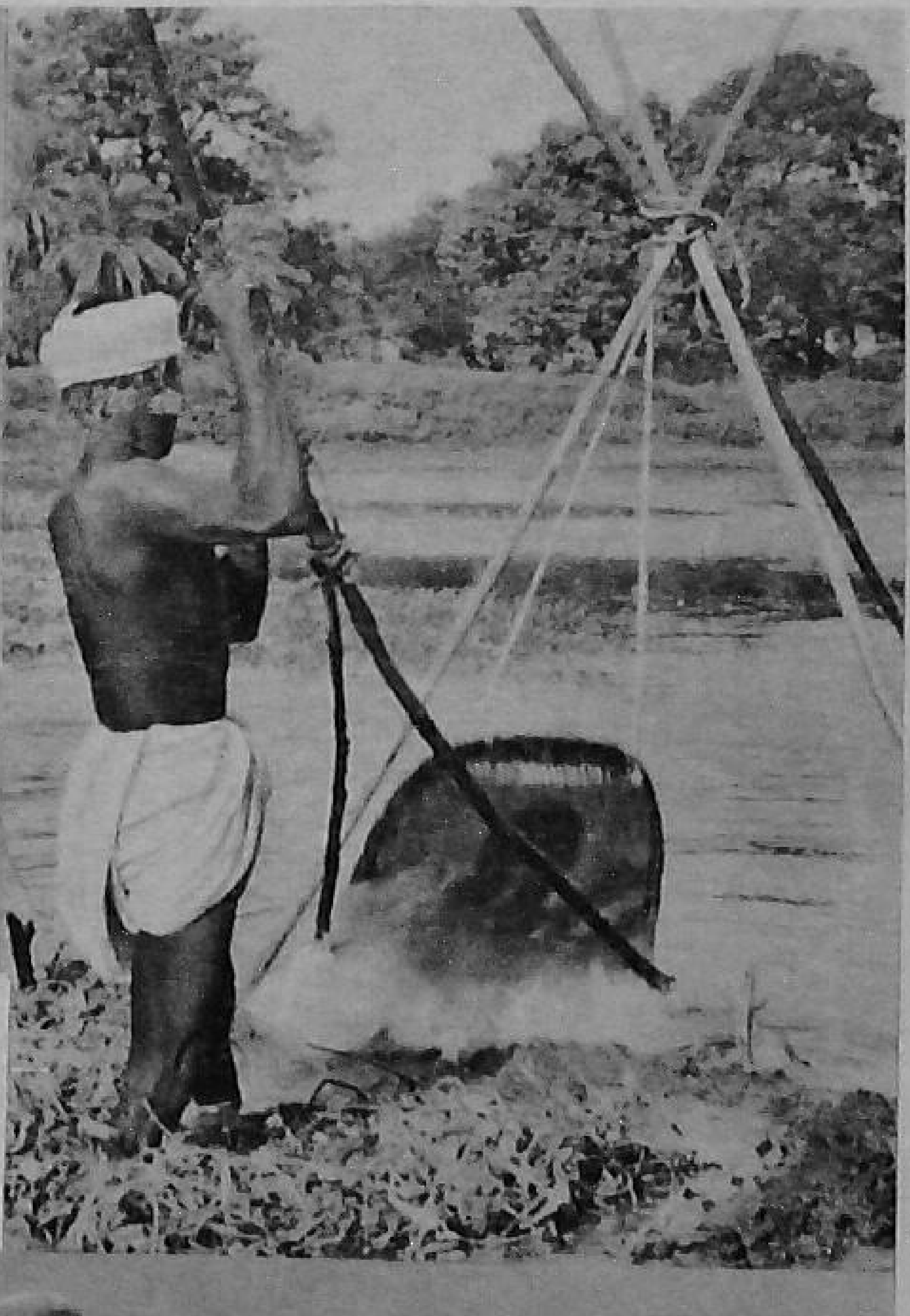
## ROSE-IN THE DESERT

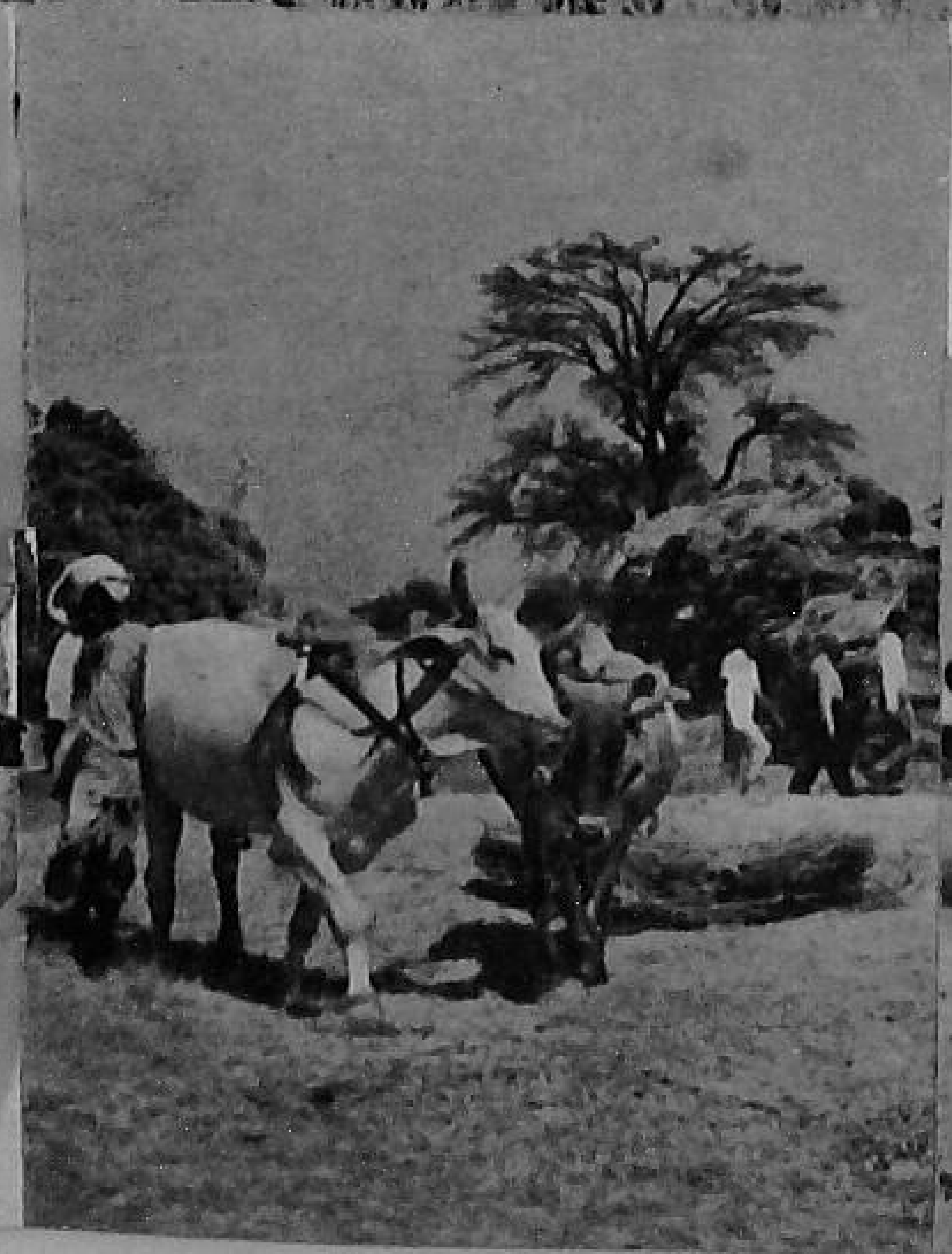
*Within sight of the historic battlefield of Haldighat, Rajasthan, 42 families engaged in growing rose gardens have come together to form a rose cooperative society, which handles the cultivation and export of roses, rose water and rose scent to Udaipur and other places. The Government has given them a loan of Rs. 2,500 for the purchase of machinery for distilling rose water and the manufacture of rose scent.*

*The cultivation of roses in Rajashan is not a new thing. In Block areas situated close to the numerous lakes throughout central and southern Rajasthan, rose gardens are common. At Chavandiya, in Pisangan Block, near Ajmer, several Kacchawa (gardener) families maintain gardens with nearly 60,000 rose plants, the produce of which is largely exported to Ajmer, where the Jain temples and the famous mausoleum of Chishti, the Muslim saint, provide a ready market. The Block staff encourages the people to run the rose industry on a cooperative basis, wherever possible.*



*They work in the villages*





*Village Scene*

Printed by the Manager, Government of India Press, Faridabad, and Published by the Director, Publications Division, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Delhi-8, on behalf of the Ministry of Community Development.

Regd. No. D—877